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HOSPITAL ROAD TO BE REBUILT Avoyelles Parish Police Jury Receives Recovery Act Funds to Reconstruct Road

ALEXANDRIA, July 28, 2009 – Businesses located on or near Hospital Road in Marksville will soon see improved access thanks to Recovery Act funding. The Avoyelles Parish Police Jury received \$139,432 in Recovery Act funds to reconstruct approximately 1,300 feet of Hospital Road to increase the potential for economic development.

The Avoyelles Parish funding was part of an announcement made by Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack spotlighting the selection of 145 recipients for more than \$15.3 million in Recovery Act funds to finance and facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprises.

“These Recovery Act grants represent the Obama administration’s ongoing efforts to ensure strategic investments and increase economic opportunities in rural America,” said Vilsack. “Small businesses play an important role in building strong communities while providing vital products and services to local residents. This funding will help spur important economic development and strengthen communities in dozens of states around the country.”

\$49,900 in Recovery Act funds were also announced for the Acadiana Regional Development District to provide technical assistance and training to entrepreneurs and small businesses in their seven-parish region.

The funding announced today is being provided through [USDA Rural Development’s Rural Business Enterprise Program \(RBEG\)](http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm), which helps finance new and existing businesses as well as employment-related adult education programs. RBEG funds can be used for start-up and working capital loans, building and plant renovations, transportation improvements, project planning and other business needs. Additional information on the RBEG program may be found at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/busp/rbeg.htm>.

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USDA Rural Development provides a full range of rural development credit services in rural Louisiana. Area Offices are located in Monroe, Natchitoches, Lafayette, and Amite; and the State Office is located in Alexandria. For more information on USDA Rural Development's loan and grant programs, visit <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/la>.

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